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Dated: 2/4/04Signature: 

(Joy D. Pickett)

Docket No.: 21547-00287-US  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Tomas Back et al.

Application No.: 10/020,401

Confirmation No.: 9654

Filed: December 18, 2001

Art Unit: 3732

For: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR  
PRODUCING ELONGATE SUPPORT  
ELEMENT AND PRODUCT, AND USE OF  
THE SUPPORT ELEMENT

Examiner: M. N. Bumgarner

3/5/04

STATUS INQUIRY

Attn: Andy  
Kosmehow

(703) 305-5915

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

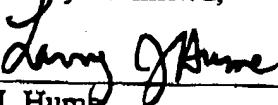
Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the attorney named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. An Amendment in response to Office Action dated May 16, 2003 was filed in the U. S. Patent & Trademark Office ("USPTO") on August 6, 2003. A copy of this Amendment and facsimile filing receipt is provided as an attachment to this inquiry. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive an Office Action from the USPTO.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21547-00287-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 4, 2004  
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Respectfully submitted,

By   
Larry J. Hume

Registration No.: 44,163  
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP  
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036-3425  
(202) 331-7111  
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant

Enclosures: Amendment filed 08/06/2003  
USPTO Auto Reply Facsimile  
Transmission dated 08/06/2003

MISSING FROM 2/4/04 TRANS,  
RESUBMITTED 3/5/04,

AK